

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SPC-01 SAM-01 PM-03 EB-03 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 DRC-01

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P 082130Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6034

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 350

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TD

SUBJECT: INITIAL CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER AND GOVERNOR GENERAL

1. MY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR ELLIS CLARKE TODAY EXTENDED INTO WARM AND CORDIAL PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH SIR ELLIS LASTING MORE THAN 45 MINUTES, CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN IS USUAL HERE FOR CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION OCCASIONS. SIR ELLIS VOLUNTEERED TO ASSIST IN ENSURING SMOOTH FLOW OF INFORMATION TO PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS SHOULD DIFFICULTY EVER ARISE IN COMMUNICATING WITH PRIME MINISTER AT SPECIFIC TIME. HE ENCOURAGED ME TO CONTACT HIM INFORMALLY WITHOUT GOING THROUGH CHANNELS AND HE IN TURN WOULD SEE THAT DR. WILLIAMS RECEIVED OUR MESSAGES. SIR ELLIS PREDICTED A CONTINUATION OF CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND GOTT AND FORESAW NO PROBLEMS ON HORIZON BEYOND NORMAL IRRITANT OF IMMIGRATION PRESSURES.

2. FOLLOWING MY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, I WAS RECEIVED BY DR. WILLIAMS FOR A COURTESY CALL LASTING ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES. DR. WILLIAMS WAS FRIENDLY, BUT NOT WARM AND OBVIOUSLY OVERBURDENED WITH WORK. HE WAS UNRESPONSIVE TO MY OVERTURES REGARDING A CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP AND FREQUENT ACCESS. HE INDICATED THAT I SHOULD EXPECT TO DEAL

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THROUGH THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS,

DR. CUTBERT JOSEPH, ON MOST MATTERS INCLUDING OAS. DR. WILLIAMS NOTED THAT HE IS CURRENTLY MOST PREOCCUPIED WITH THE GOTT BUDGET, WHICH IS STILL EVOLVING EVEN AFTER RECENT BUDGET SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT.

3. COMMENT: I AM PLEASED BY PRIME MINISTER'S PROMPT RECEITION OF ME TODAY IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS IN VIEW OF HIS VIGILANT SCREENING OUT OF MANY WOULD-BE CALLERS. HE OBVIOUSLY IS RESERVING HIS POSITION REGARDING HIS DEGREE OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH ME OR THIS EMBASSY.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

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